

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1912.

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1912.

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

Your commissioners beg leave to report that the county appropriation for 1911 was \$7,000. This amount was expended as judiciously as possible, the details of which will be found in the report of the superintendent annexed hereto. As no repairs were necessary upon the hotel building at the summit we were able to apply practically the entire amount of the appropriation to the development of the reservation grounds, reforestation, and maintenance and improvement of the mountain roads, which now require more attention since automobiles are admitted within the grounds than when they were restricted.

It was pointed out in our last previous report that it was recommended by the superintendent that extensive repairs upon the main road to the summit were required in order to put it into a safe condition for automobiles, and this work was performed during the year. It is estimated that not less than 3,000 automobiles visited the reservation during the open season in 1911, and without doubt these trips are becoming more popular each year, owing to the fact that the mountain road is now in excellent condition.

For further details as to work already performed and in contemplation we would respectfully refer to the report of the superintendent hereto annexed.

HAROLD PARKER,
THEODORE L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,
Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— The greater part of the work on the reservation the past year has been but a repetition of previous work.

A strip of about five acres of scrub beech and oak was cleared, and in the spring the brush will be burnt and the land replanted to white pine. Eighteen thousand two-year-old white pine seedlings were transplanted from the nursery to old pasture land. The small trees that we have planted in the past are coming along nicely, and if we can keep the fire out will soon make a fine young forest.

The South Road was thinned out from the town road for some distance past Echo Lake, and made a beautiful spot throughout the summer, as the ferns are very thick and luxuriant.

The burning of the brown-tail moth nests was attended to; quite a little attention will have to be given to this from now on as they are becoming more numerous each year.

Extensive repairs were made to the Mountain Road. A fairly good road material was carted on from half a mile down the North Road on the western side of the reservation. While this is not as good as gravel, it answers very well and is the best we can obtain. It packs down and hardens like cement, and makes a good summer road.

As automobilists constitute fully 25 per cent. of the summer visitors, I have reduced the grade on the two sharp turns near the summit, thus lessening the worst drag on the machines. The road has also been widened in a number of places, and the retaining wall, which was badly loosened by the ice, was repaired and 2,000 feet of much heavier wall built.

I hope to be able to build more road this year. The great efficiency of these roads as fire guards has been well proven by a small fire started on an adjacent farm in the early spring. Had it not been for one of the new roads a great amount of damage would have occurred.

The State watchman, who is allowed by the commission to use the observatory as a watch tower, should be of great value to the reservation, as he is on duty from daylight until dark and commands a view of almost the entire reservation. It is his duty to report to the nearest fire warden any smoke seen within a radius of 20 miles.

The Summit House under your management has had its best year, and I hope to see a continued improvement.

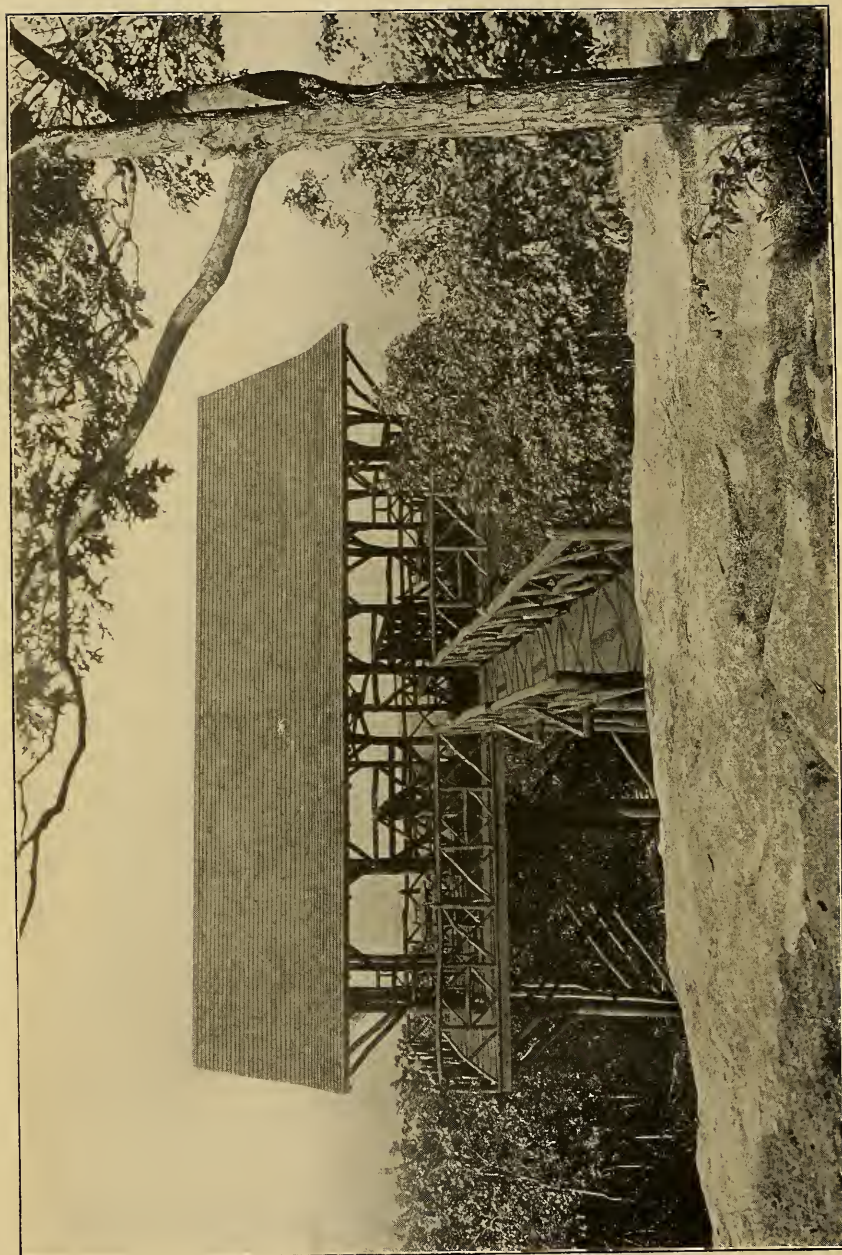
The police patrol has been continued in the usual manner. The elk and deer are in good condition and are increasing each year.

In the line of repairs, the Summit House and some of the other buildings were painted, and the Smith cottage and barn, recently purchased, were shingled and minor repairs made. The rustic pavilion on the Indian Trail required quite a little repairing, owing to the failure to remove the bark when built. The old bark was removed, new benches and tables built, and a coat of creosote stain applied. By this method I think the shelters may be made quite a permanent affair. It is my intention, with your permission, to construct a pavilion on the Mountain House Trail. This is the most used of the trails and at present is without shelter of any kind.

As we now have the Summit House, superintendent's house and a number of cottages and outbuildings, I should recommend carrying a small insurance on same. With our small appropriation it would be almost impossible to replace these buildings in case of fire.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. NEEDHAM,
Superintendent.



NEW LUNCH PAVILION FOR THE PUBLIC USE.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1913.



BOSTON:
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1913.

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OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

Your commissioners herewith submit their thirteenth annual report concerning the care and maintenance of the reservation.

New roads have been located and in a large measure built, making the reservation more easily accessible to the public, and the old roads have been put in better condition. The fact that from 4,000 to 5,000 automobiles passed over the road to the Summit House at the top of the mountain during the year 1912 is a good indication that the efforts of the commission to improve the reservation are appreciated by the public.

Conferences between the Board and the county commissioners at various times during the past year or more have resulted in the establishment of a camp, with the necessary buildings for the use of short-term convicts. The county commissioners believed that these men might, with profit to themselves and the public, be put to work outdoors under proper supervision; therefore, by a joint action a very carefully considered plan has been laid out and put into operation with gratifying success. The camp, comprising bunk-house, reading room, dining room, dispensary and other necessary buildings, was laid out and constructed in a healthful location, with excellent water supply, within the limits of the reservation, and about 10 acres of arable land were apportioned to its use for farming purposes. During the season about 1,000 bushels of potatoes and other vegetables were raised by the prisoners for their use through the winter at the House of Correction at Worcester.

The prisoners were employed, in addition to their farming operations, in work on the reservation, — the construction of roads, wood chopping and forestry work.

The commission is satisfied that the experiment of employing short-time convicts under such and kindred circumstances is an eminently successful one. It is the purpose of the commission, acting with the county commissioners, to enlarge on the operations of the past year.

The subject of employment of convict labor has long been a matter of serious consideration by those having in charge the welfare of prisoners, and the commission feels that the initiative which has been taken as stated, and the success attained in the short experience of a few months, should prove that the subject is well worthy of continued trial.

In conclusion, the commission desires to say that it feels well satisfied with the result of the work of the year, for which much credit is due to our efficient superintendent, Mr. Everett W. Needham, who has worked faithfully in all matters, and who has ably seconded the efforts of the Board in making the reservation a worthy place for recreation.

For more detailed report of what has been accomplished we would respectfully refer to the annexed report of the superintendent.

HAROLD PARKER.
THEODORE L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:—The work on the reservation progressed in a satisfactory manner, and I am pleased to report some good improvements the past year. The use of prison labor, as agreed upon by your commission and the county commissioners, has proved a successful experiment, and I hope it may be continued.

In the winter and early spring the brush was cleared out and burned for a distance of two miles on the side of the county road bordering the reservation. An old pine stand was cleared of all dead trees and brush and all the dead limbs that could be reached. This leaves but little for a fire to feed upon. The proposed new road was cleared of timber and brush.

In the spring advantage was taken of the new law, whereby the State Forester furnished State properties with seedlings to be planted thereon. Twenty thousand two-year old seedlings were sent us, and, with 8,000 from our own nursery, covered a good-sized tract of old pasture. We can now abolish our own nursery.

Shortly after the ice crop was removed from Echo Lake the dam started to leak and soon drained the pond. As the leak was under the old flume, in the center of the pond, it was quite an expensive task to repair it. The dam was widened 3 feet and a concrete core built in front of the old flume.

The elk wintered well, but one yearling buck was trampled to death in March after coming through the winter in fine shape. In April the two old bucks were trapped, one sold and the other exchanged for a two-year old buck. This will bring new blood to the herd.

In the spring a new pavilion was built upon the Mountain House Trail. This was quite an expensive building, as it is 1,500 feet down a rough trail that made it hard to deliver

material. It is of a rustic construction, 40 feet long by 20 feet wide, and built upon 15-foot posts that bring the floor above the tree tops, so that an extensive and beautiful view may be enjoyed. The interior is divided into three sections, and each section furnished with seats and tables for the benefit of picnic parties. A rustic bridge 40 feet long runs from the trail to the pavilion.

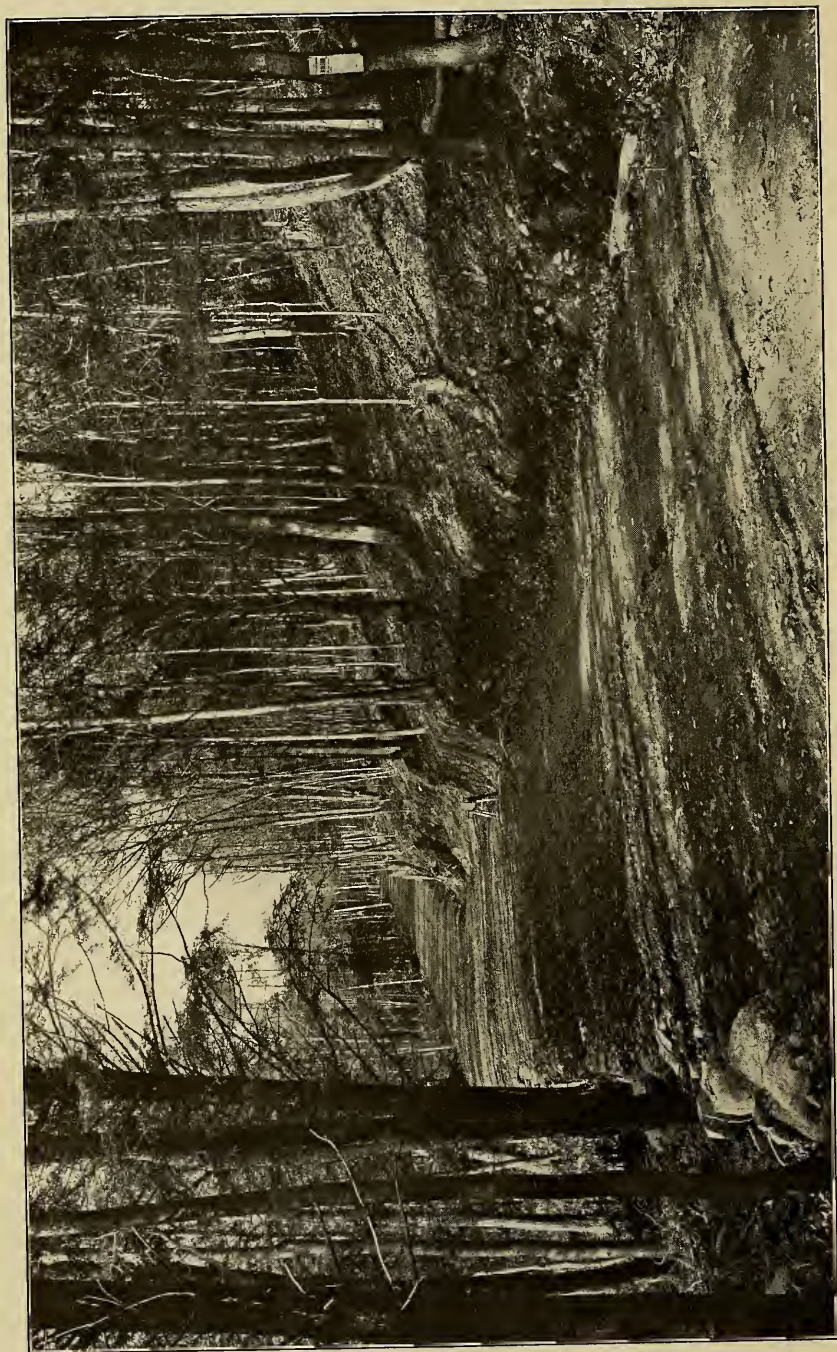
There was so much teaming necessary throughout the summer that with your permission I purchased another pair of heavy young horses. Ten acres of old mowing were cultivated, and on this 1,000 bushels of potatoes were raised by the prisoners for consumption at the jail.

June 24 a small gang of prisoners started work on the new road and were employed until the 10th of December. They are worked eight hours a day, with Saturday afternoon and all holidays off. We were able to complete nearly a mile of new road at an expense of \$2,000, and some of this road was in a very rough country, necessitating heavy fill and a great amount of blasting. In August a second-hand stone crusher was purchased, and was started up at the "Ox Box" about the middle of September. About 3,000 feet of the Mountain and North roads were covered with a heavy coat of crushed stone at an expense of about \$1,200. This, I think, is the best move made for good roads on the reservation, as the supply of stone is unlimited. Where the Mountain Road is narrow we blast out the ledge and use the stone in the crusher. In the spring I should advise buying a steam or compressed-air drilling outfit and a horse roller. We will in the future have a great amount of blasting, and could accomplish much more with a small drilling outfit. The macadam road would be more even with a certain amount of rolling.

In addition to this the regular work of police patrol, repairs to roads, destroying the brown-tail moth nests and general repairs has been carried on in the usual manner.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,
Superintendent.



VIEW OF WEST ROAD.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1914.



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OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The use of the short-term prisoners has enabled the commission to accomplish much more the past year than heretofore. The second year of the experiment of so employing these prisoners has been eminently successful. Worcester county is the only one of the counties in the State to make a practical test of the theory that prisoners confined for minor offences would be better off morally and physically if given employment in the open and upon honor. The experiment has shown the correctness of this theory, for these prisoners, with few exceptions, not only work well and faithfully, but when they leave they are much better fitted to take up a normal life.

The report of Supt. E. W. Needham, which is annexed hereto and made a part of this report, gives in detail the work which has been done.

The commissioners feel that the reservation is now in such condition that the question of the highways leading to it should be a matter of serious consideration. It is fast becoming a beauty spot of the Commonwealth, and being located as it is in the heart of the State it should be made more accessible through its public highways. It is understood that the building of a State road, connecting with the State road at Holden, and reaching to and connecting with the macadam road already built upon the reservation, is being agitated at the present time, and it is earnestly hoped that the matter will receive favorable consideration. Such a road could eventually be continued to connect with the State road

at Westminster, thus making the shortest route from Worcester to Gardner and Greenfield, with State roads practically all the way.

The reservation was established in 1899, fifteen years ago, and is visited every year not only by citizens of this State, but by visitors from all over the country. During the year just closed over 4,000 automobilists ascended to the summit, while not less than 30,000 people visited the reservation. If the roads leading to the reservation from Worcester and Fitchburg or other traffic centers were good this number would doubtless be easily doubled, but owing to the fact that these roads are practically impassable to automobiles and other vehicles for several months in the spring and fall, when the scenery is at its very best, the number of visitors is naturally curtailed.

HAROLD PARKER,
JOHN T. BURNETT,
THEO. L. HARLOW,
Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— The employment of prison labor has been continued the past year with the same result as last, and I hope it can be made a permanent arrangement for the labor on the reservation.

An average gang of from twenty-five to thirty prisoners from the Worcester House of Correction were employed from the 15th of May until the first day of December. The work has been a continuation of that started last year.

During the winter the remaining quarter mile of the West Road was cleared of timber, the brush burned and the stumps blown out. All the brush was cut and burned for 50 feet on each side of this road.

In the spring 20,000 white pine seedlings, procured from the State nursery at Amherst, were planted on an old clearing.

I found that a compressed-air drilling outfit was too expensive for our limited appropriation, so assembled a small affair on the stone crusher truck that would run a light hammer. This more than paid for the outlay before the summer was over.

The West Road was completed, and is a fine addition to our system of roads. It is a mile and a quarter long and 25 feet wide, and runs along the western border of the reservation. If ever necessary it will prove a very efficient fire guard. Nothing could be more pleasant than a ride along this road on a hot summer day, as most of the way is bordered by heavy timber.

Work on the Mountain Road was carried on all summer with a small gang, as the heavy travel made it impossible to rush work. Twenty-seven hundred feet of road was macadamized, 15 feet wide and from 6 to 8 inches deep. The road was

blasted out to a width of 20 feet, and almost enough stone procured in this way to furnish the necessary amount for crushing.

A thousand feet of stone wall was built along the outer side of road for a guard, and some new culverts had to be built and all the old ones widened. This makes 4,700 feet of completed road, and leaves 3,500 feet to be completed. This I hope to accomplish next summer.

The North Road, a mile in length, and originally built for a carriage road, was widened to a 20-foot road, and 900 feet covered with crushed stone; 1,900 feet of this road is of crushed stone.

The Administration Road was placed in excellent condition and was greatly used as a northwesterly route to the summit.

The Summit House has had a successful season. A piece of land 125 feet square, just below the hotel, was cleared and leveled, and a croquet court and a gravel tennis court made. These proved quite an attraction throughout the summer.

In addition to this the regular work of police patrol, repairs to roads, destroying the brown-tail moth nests and general repairs has been carried on in the usual manner.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,
Superintendent.

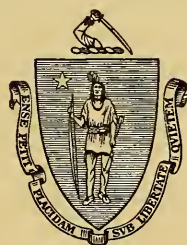
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1915.



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1915.

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OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.





SUMMIT HOUSE.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The present report is the fifteenth annual statement presented by the commissioners. A brief outline of work done during the past years has been submitted to each General Court as required by statute. It was not thought that the public at large would be sufficiently interested to warrant a lengthened review.

During the last two years communications from many parts of the country asking for information and conclusions regarding activities undertaken on the reservation have, however, convinced the commissioners that a review of what has been attempted and the deductions reached should be made.

The inquiries that have reached the commissioners have related particularly to forestry, both planting and thinning, the use of prison labor and administration.

The area of Wachusett Reservation is a little more than 1,500 acres. Its character and condition at the time of acquisition was such as may be found in the upland parts of Massachusetts, with the distinguishing feature of the bare, rugged top of the mountain rising above the surrounding woods. Perhaps one-fifth of this area consisted of old pasture with scattered growth of white pine that had seeded itself. In short, the conditions were precisely what would be expected when cut-over woodland had been allowed to care for itself.

No roads existed except the one leading to the tumble-down hotel at the summit.

Wachusett itself is unique, for it stands 1,000 feet above its surrounding hills, the highest point in the State east of the Connecticut River. The entire State, from the sea to the New York boundary, lies spread out like a map to one standing on its summit. On clear days Mount Washington can be seen among the peaks of the White Mountains; the Catskills beyond the Hudson; and the Green Mountains of Vermont can be easily seen to the west and north. Monadnock and the Peterboro hills, with all the intermediate elevations to Greylock in the Hoosatic valley, are well-marked objects. At night the lights of scores of towns and villages shine until they are absorbed on the far distant horizon.

The two roads between Princeton and Westminster form the boundary of the reservation.

Wachusett was one of the first of the State reservations; no precedent had therefore been established for its treatment. The State made the original purchase, the county of Worcester must maintain it forever. At the time it was created very little interest in the care of forests or planting of forest trees was manifested in this country. Very few persons had scientific knowledge of such things. It was therefore without a leader that the commission undertook to make a demonstration of the wisdom of the State in acquiring these tracts.

The commission had the authority to take land by the right of eminent domain. All land included in the reservation is doubly secured to the Commonwealth by deed from the owners and by formal taking by the commission. The surveys were made with great accuracy, and all lines are connected with the triangulations of the United States Coast Survey; all elevations taken from mean sea level.

FOREST CONSIDERATIONS.

A comprehensive plan for clearing up the old forest by cutting defective timber and thinning out where needed has been studied, but never fully put into operation because of the pressure of other matters. One hundred cords of wood are, however, cut each year, in addition to such lumber as may be required for buildings or repairs.

True Meridian

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

MAP SHOWING ROADS TRAILS PONDS BROOKS BUILDINGS
HEAVY LINES INDICATE BOUNDARIES OF RESERVATION
Everett W Needham, Superintendent. January 1, 1915

HAROLD PARKER }
T L HARLOW } Commissioners
JOHN T BURNETT }



The establishment of a nursery for the propagation of seedlings was early established; white pine, Scotch pine, spruce and other trees adapted to the elevation and soil were raised from the seed and transplanted once before their final location on the open pastures, high upon the mountain sides. About 150 acres have been so reforested, with 1,200 trees to the acre. These were all taken from the reservation nursery until a year or so ago; since then the annual supply has been furnished by the State Forester, from Amherst. Few of these trees have died and none have been lost by fire.

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

It has been the care of the commission to take every precaution against danger of fire. By referring to the sketch map accompanying this report the location of fire guards can be seen. The purpose of these is twofold, — to enable the men and teams to reach any fire in the easiest and most direct way, and also to present open places where the fire can be checked. A system of telephone wires extends all over the wooded portion of the reservation, with stations on trees at frequent intervals, and connected with the superintendent's house and the hotel.

BUILDINGS.

At the time that the State took possession there were, on the land taken, three houses, barns and stables. These have been repaired and enlarged and are now respectively the dwelling places of employees and the storing places of the hay and other products of the reservation. A new house for the superintendent had to be built, with stables for the work horses. The house is a suitable and commodious home with an office and fireproof vault for documents, plans, etc.

All surveys, plans and maps were made within the reservation by the officials of the commission, under the direction of Mr. Guy H. Chase, the first superintendent, with Mr. E. W. Needham, the present superintendent, as assistant. Both of these gentlemen are trained engineers, and both have shown excellent administrative ability.

DEER AND ELK.

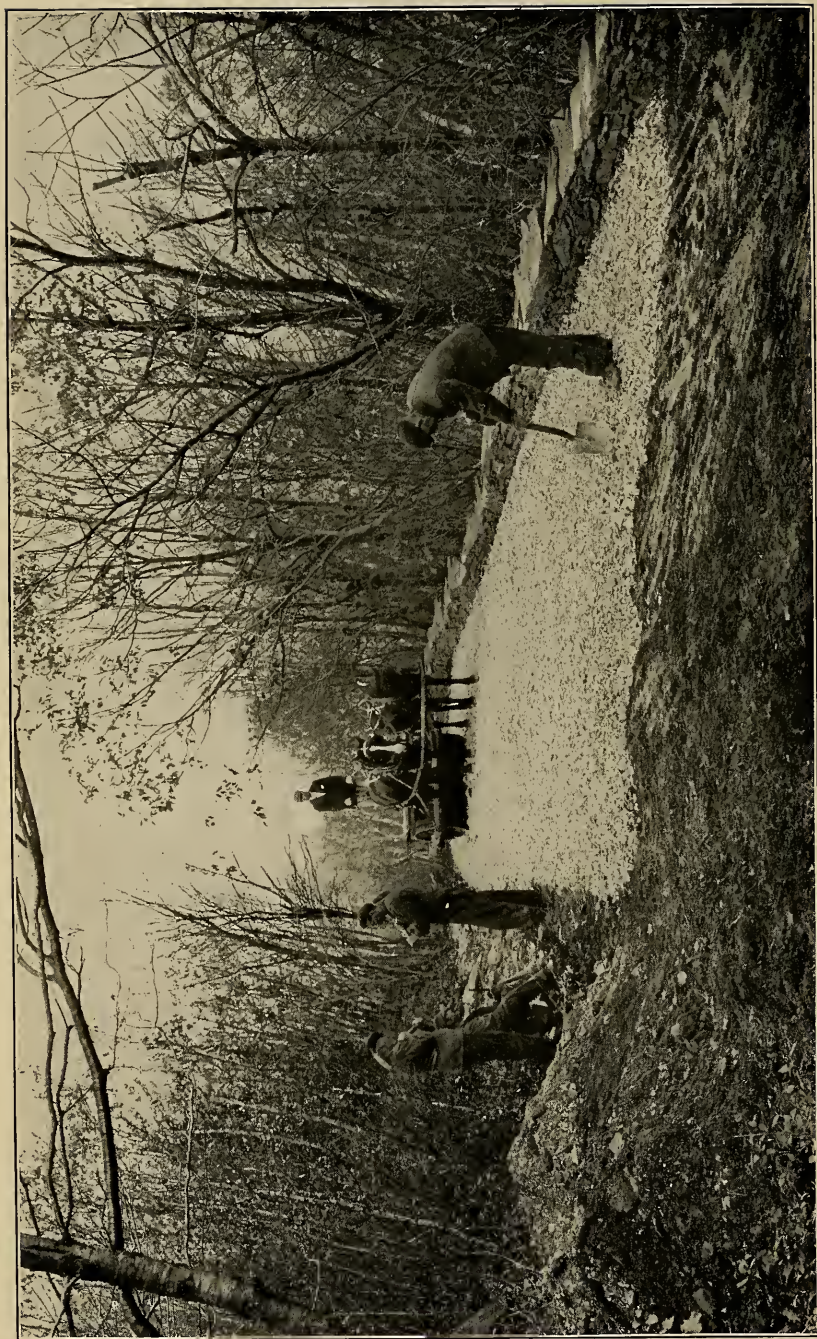
The practicability of breeding deer and elk for food has been to some extent tested, and has been found quite possible. Elk breed but once in two years, they are easily taken care of and a carcass will bring about the same price as beef. The same may be said of deer, though with the latter there is greater danger of epidemics, they are less prolific, and the liability of injury by dogs getting into the enclosure is greater. On the whole, though interesting, this experiment does not offer great encouragement. A small herd of elk is kept and the surplus sent to Boston market. Many wild deer have been captured on the mountain and turned in with the others. Both these animals keep themselves in the woods except in the winter; they are supplied with hay and vegetables raised on the reservation. Angora goats have been tried out.

TRAILS.

The old trails leading over the mountain and to the top are also shown on the map referred to. Many of these are the old Indian paths. They are kept free from entangling growths, but are otherwise left in their wild state. The fire guards already referred to have been used as the location for roads, and as such have been graded and drained and put into condition for driving or automobiling. They follow substantially the contour lines and are, therefore, of easy gradient; they are, as they wind through the varied woodlands, quite beautiful.

HOTEL.

It was early realized that the old hotel on the summit was not suitable for man's usage. An appeal to the Legislature produced no help and the county of Worcester would add nothing to its average annual appropriation; under these circumstances the commission saw no other way than to shut off all but the bare necessities and let the county appropriation accumulate. By these means the hotel was rebuilt in a substantial and attractive way. It presents now a most comfortable resting place for automobile parties or more permanent guests, and an excellent service is given to the public,



MAKING ROAD UP MOUNTAIN.

both in rooms and table. The sanitary arrangements are complete, the water, air and scenery beyond dispute. The whole is operated under the authority of the commission and under the immediate charge of the superintendent. From 4,000 to 5,000 automobile parties visit the hotel during the year in addition to the great numbers that ascend the mountain on foot or by carriage. A profit sufficient to supply the necessities of operation is derived from guests. The tower of the hotel was early sought by the State Forester as one of the fire observation points. Mr. Hutchins, the head of that excellent system, considers it one of his most useful stations on account of its extensive outlook and central location.

USE OF SHORT-TERM PRISONERS.

At the suggestion of the county commissioners of Worcester the feasibility of using short-term county prisoners as laborers was considered and finally put into operation.

Camp buildings were erected on a sloping hillside, where the water and drainage are good, sufficient for about 50 persons; about 10 acres adjoining were set aside for the farming operation of the prisoners, and with one prison official in charge the experiment was started, and for the last three years has been in successful operation. These men, under the direction of foremen furnished by the superintendent, do all the manual labor on the reservation; they make the roads, chop the wood, blast the rocks and run the stone-crushing plant, and in addition raise enough potatoes and other vegetables to supply the county jail. The county furnishes such guards as are necessary, and receives from the commission a price per diem for each man according to the time sheet of the foremen.

The question of what disposal to make of short-term prisoners is one of considerable economic interest. It may be assumed that these trials offer evidence of some value.

It cannot be expected that persons who have so conducted themselves that they have been punished by imprisonment are, as a whole, persons of high character, even in their own walks of life; it is not likely, then, that these men will shine

under any circumstances, and it should not be expected. Nevertheless, these men have with rare exceptions proved themselves fair, average men in both the quality and quantity of their performance. The important consideration is, however, whether the effect is beneficial to the men themselves and the community at large. If the benefit to either is appreciable it is worth doing. It is not within reason to suppose that a man who under ordinary conditions could commit an offence for which he is punished by imprisonment can be reformed, or his moral nature be reconstructed, by three months in the fresh air; but it may be reasonably believed that a man working in the woods or on the hill tops, with the beauties of nature about him, may, at the end of three months, be better fitted to go back to his ordinary occupation than if he had spent the same period within the walls of a county jail. The commission believes this experiment has been successful.

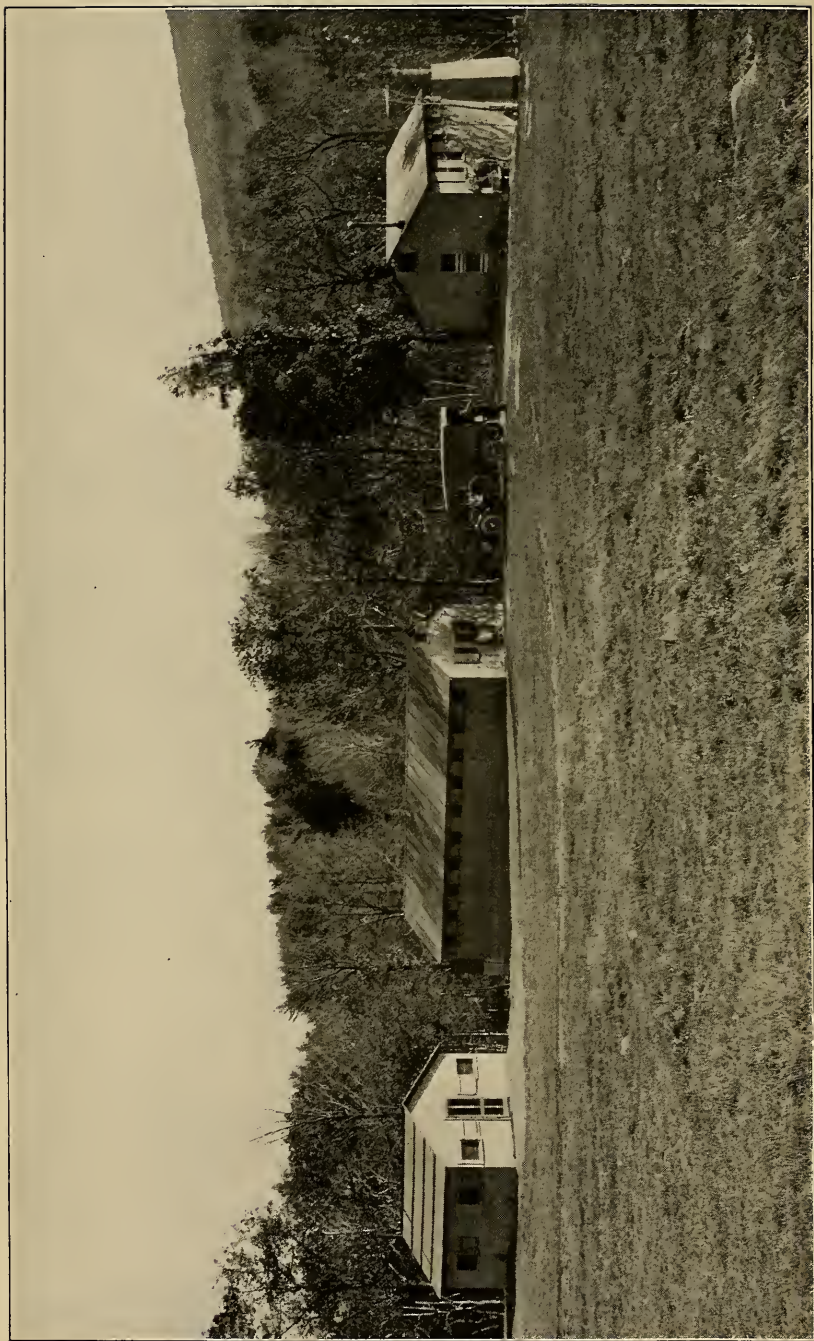
DEDUCTIONS.

The policy of establishing reservations such as Wachusett is not discussed; there can be no question that having made them, however, they should be so governed as to produce some public benefit. They cannot, as a rule, be treated as sacred to some historical memory and preserved for such purpose alone. Neither can they be regarded as purely recreational. They may combine both of these purposes, but should serve some practical end as well, otherwise their creation can not be defended as a public measure.

With these convictions the commission has put into use the various activities described in brief herein. It has felt that demonstration of the practicability of applying scientific forestry to neglected lands would have a direct economic value; with the same purpose in mind the other trials have been made. The report of the superintendent is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

HAROLD PARKER.
THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.



PRISONERS' CAMP.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN: — I submit herewith my report for the past year and take this opportunity to mention a few of the improvements that I would recommend for the coming year.

During the winter months, with the few permanent men that we employ, 5 acres of pine growth have been thinned out and all the dead limbs and trees burned. Enough of the best logs from the dead pines were sorted out to make 3,000 feet of very fair boards which can be used for general repairs. There were also 100 cords of wood which were used at the hotel headquarters and by the men. One hundred telephone poles were cut out from the chestnut growth. Eight of these had the chestnut blight. The bark was removed from the poles in June when it would peel easily, and they are now ready to deliver.

The ice crop was harvested from the pond at the summit. Since the pond was enlarged we are able at one cutting to store enough ice for the season.

In order to accommodate the two teamsters I now have to employ I found it necessary to change the small cottage near the barn into a double tenement house. To do this a small ell was built. A large cesspool was made and each tenement supplied with modern plumbing. Some new sills were placed in the barn and other necessary repairs made.

May 18 a small gang of prisoners were put to work on the reservation. They first planted 20,000 white pine seedlings which I had procured from the State nursery. This is the second year I have had the prisoners do this work, and I would advise that it be the last, as I find it impossible to keep a proper watch over them, and they do not take the necessary

interest. We found them putting 10 or 20 seedlings in one hole; also throwing them in the brush, and it was impossible to make them tamp the planting properly. Our older plantings were inspected this year by the State Forester and the State Fire Warden and were reported as fine as any in the State.

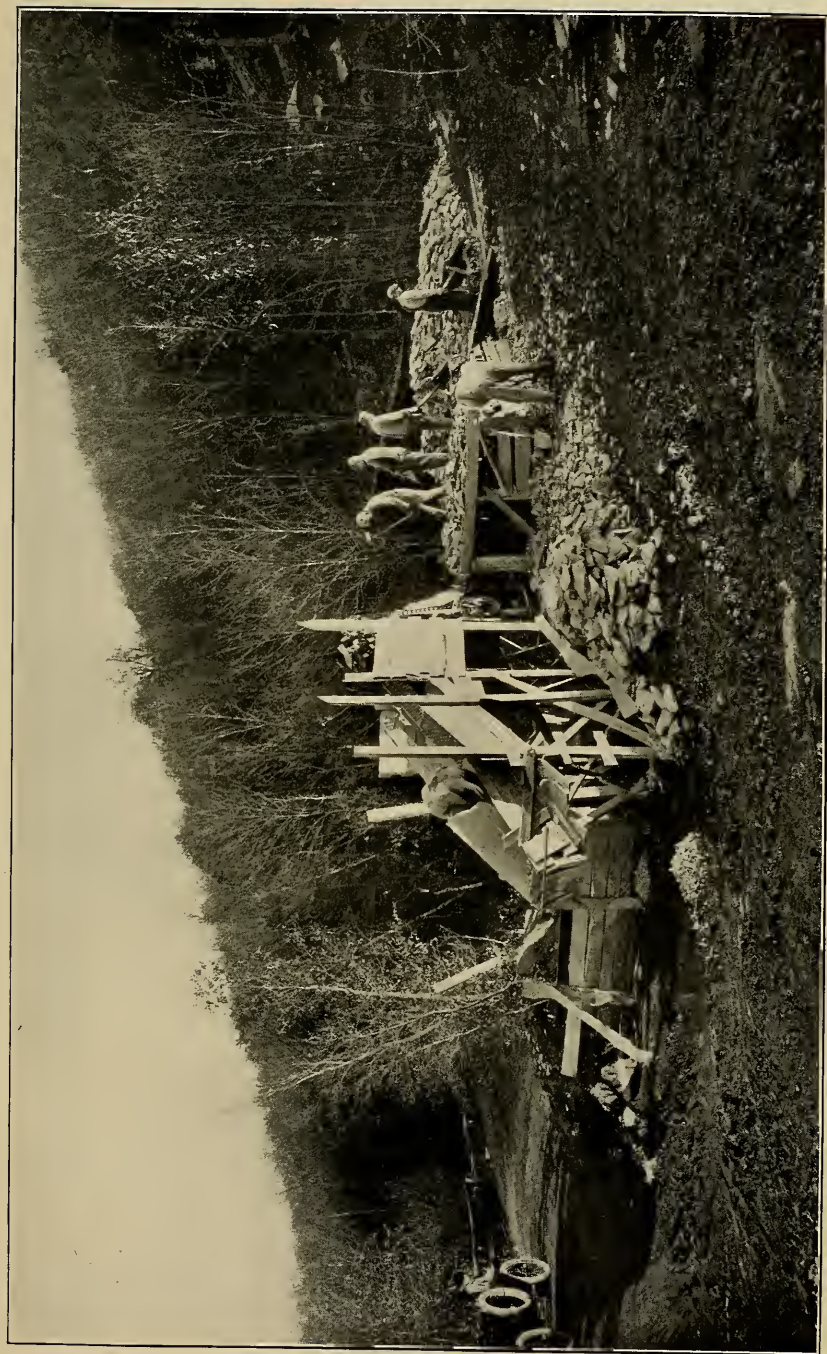
On the 1st of June the stone crusher was started, and an additional 900 feet of the North Road covered with crushed stone. This makes 2,800 feet, or a little over one-half of the North Road, macadam. As the rest of this road is in good repair, and there is plenty of good material available to keep it so, I would call this road completed.

A large amount of work was done on the Administration Road during the summer. Five hundred feet of road which was very soft during a wet spell was dug out 15 feet wide and a foot in depth, and filled with broken boulders and then resurfaced. Two hundred feet of retaining wall was built where the road had to be widened, and a large amount of ditch was blasted out. In one place where there was a reverse curve 300 feet in length the road was straightened out and the grade made less. I would advise that this road be macadamized, as I think it will become the most popular route to the summit.

Throughout the summer I kept a small force at work on the Mountain Road, and they worked at a disadvantage, as the road had to be kept open at all times. The 1st of September I put all the men at work on this road in order to complete it this year. This, I am pleased to report, has been accomplished. Thirty-five hundred feet of this road was covered with 6 to 8 inches of crushed stone, and 800 feet of new retaining and guard wall was built. All culverts on this strip were rebuilt and some new ones added; the grades at the sharp turns were lessened and a much longer sweep given them.

The hotel barn and ice house at the summit, also the two houses and barn at headquarters, were painted, and the annex to the hotel was painted on the inside.

On the north side of the reservation there is a small artificial pond called Bolton Pond, which covers about an acre.



PRISONERS AT WORK AT CRUSHER.

As the city of Fitchburg has taken Wachusett Lake as a water supply and fenced it in so that it is inaccessible to the public, I would suggest that we enlarge this pond. At no very great expense this pond could be made to cover 25 to 30 acres, and would make one of the beauty spots of the reservation.

I would also suggest that the South Road, which in places is very narrow, and for that reason closed to automobiles, be widened and macadamized.

In addition to this, the regular work of police patrol, repairs to roads, destroying the moth nests and general repairs has been carried on in the usual manner.

Very truly yours,

E. W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

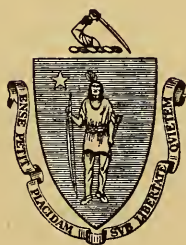
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1920



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OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

FRANK C. SMITH, JR.

HARDING ALLEN.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The Commission desire to report that they are able only to maintain the reservation, and keep it at its present standard, with the appropriation allotted by the county.

They have, however, various projects in view which they hope to accomplish, a little at a time, as the purchasing value of the dollar increases.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. BURNETT,
FRANK C. SMITH, JR.,
HARDING ALLEN,

Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

GENTLEMEN:—Throughout the winter forestry was carried on as much as possible. The 4 feet of snow made work in the woods a difficult task. The "Ox Bow," so called, on the mountain road was cleared of all growth, allowing another beautiful view as one ascends the mountain. Enough wood for the hotel was procured from this cutting. One thousand feet of the west road were cleared of brush and undesirable growth, and the brush burned.

Echo Lake Road was widened for a distance of 400 feet and the sharp turn at the dam relieved. The roads were put in shape for the summer, new material hauled on, and new culverts built; also 1,800 feet of heavy guard rail were built. About 1,200 feet of the road from the reservation to Princeton were graded and graveled, completing a good road from Princeton to the summit. This road received an application of tarvia.

The herd of elk are in a thrifty condition.

The Summit House had its best year, and thousands of visitors took advantage of the beautiful drives through the reservation.

The Summit House and buildings at headquarters received a coat of paint. Owing to the cost of paint and labor this was expensive, but could not be postponed. Part of the main barn was shingled, and repairs made on the Woodward House and the pavilions.

A garden was kept large enough to supply the hotel, 130 bushels of oats were raised, and 30 tons of hay were cut.

For a detailed account of expenditures please refer to the county treasurer's report.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

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